

look forward to the years yet to come with greater anticipation and more lofty aspirations, and they have filled us with a manly courage, and made us buoyant with hope.

To the members of the dental profession

THEY HAVE ANOTHER EQUALLY DEEP SIGNIFICANCE.

The period of that reign is almost coterminous with the organized life of what now commands no unimportant place among the liberal professions. Fifty-eight years have elapsed since the first small class of students in any incorporated college in America stood before its faculty, and infused with a feeling of brilliant expectancy, received the degree of doctor of dental surgery. To-day their name is legion.

It would be presumption on my part to attempt to recite the events which to dentists will appear as most important, when the doings of this period come to be crystallized into the history of the future. With them we are all familiar. And with that noble band of apostles, the best years of whose lives were spent, and are being spent, in their endeavors to fathom the mysteries of our restricted specialty, or with those geniuses of mechanism and art, who have taught us to supply the deficiencies nature has oftentimes been guilty of in her handiwork, or to reproduce parts which man in his negligence or inability to preserve, have become useless or defunct—we, too, are familiar.

Those sturdy veterans are aged and are aging. Many, too many, of those old familiar faces have already completed their last experiment, written their last treatise, and have departed to that bourne from which no traveller returneth.

As we reflect, one thought transcending all others in impressiveness forces itself to our attention—has the sum of knowledge already been completed, and are the wheels of progress after sixty years of continuous movement now to clog and stop? or has the present generation, but now, as it were, entering the fray, no solemn obligation resting upon it, to assume the responsibilities of the task their fathers are now wearily laying aside, and with their might toil while with them yet it is the day? Our duty to the future, as well as to the urgency of the present, and our respect for the past make answer for us. But a mere cursory glance is necessary to reveal that the responsibility resting upon us is of a dual nature, and is as much toward the community as toward ourselves; and that all our efforts for the betterment of existing conditions, whether by legal enactment or by scientific research, should be so directed as to guard the welfare of the one, and to protect and advance the interests of the other.

Of late years nearly every community has taken the precaution to determine who shall have the power to practise within its pre-